Welfare Schemes for Brick Kiln Workers

3807. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the welfare schemes introduced for brick kiln labourers ; and

(b) what is proposed about the compulsory Insurance against the risk in their work or work spot ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) There are no separate welfare schemes for brick kiln labourers. However, they get sufficient protection under the Labour Laws.

(b) No proposal for a compulsory Insurance Scheme for these workers is under consideration of the Government.

Augmenting the supply of essential commodities through imports

3808. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some National Level of political parties have urged Government to augment the supply of essential commodities through imports to ease the pressure of rising prices ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Imports of essential commodities is made from time to time considering various relevant factors like internal availability and foreign exchange resources etc.

Committee for the welfare of Minorities

3809. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL : will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to states :

(a) whether there is any Committee in the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution for monitoring the implementation of the 15-point Programme for the Welfare of the Minorities ; and

(b) if so, the details of such Committees and its achievements during the last three years under the programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMULUDDIN AHMED) : (a) NO, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

Curtailment of Imports of Edible Oils

3810. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are proposing to curtail drastically the imports of edible oils;

(b) whether such curtailment in import is likely to lead to rise in prices of edible oil in the country; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to stabilise the prices of edible oils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The requirement to import edible oils is constantly reviewed and imports made as and when required considering local availability foreign exchange availability with due regard to encouraging indigenous producers of oilseeds to get their remunerative prices.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Govt. have taken the following steps:

1. Stock limits of oilseeds and oils by dealers/processors and manufacturers of edible oils/vsanspati have been reduced.

2. Import of edible oils has been made to supplement the indigenous production.

3. For augmenting the availability and acceptability of edible oils, blending of any two edible vegetable oils like groundnut oil, mustard oil, soyabean oil, cotton seed oil, sunflower oil etc., has been permitted.

4. Central Government has directed all State Governments/UTs to have strict sureveilance on the availability and price of edible oils and also to undertake dehoarding operations.

5. Edible oils have once again been exempted from the railway freight increase proposed in Railway Budget for 1992-93.